

Jon Thomas Rowland

I think Gladys was jealous of what she considered Patricia and Babs's "certifiability." She suspected me too. In the context it would have been a lot more useful than my doctorate. It would have opened doors, presented options, created opportunities. It was membership in a club which automatically got you invited elsewhere. There was something to Gladys's position.

I now realize that Adam might have "belonged" more than anyone (except perhaps myself), but for some reason chose not to exercise his privileges. He never played that card. Yet I remember one morning he told me. "I'm crazy," he said. "We all are." He meant himself, Patricia, Babs - even Gladys. Despite how desperately I wanted to belong there, with him, he hadn't included me. Maybe it was only stating the obvious, but I'm still jealous.

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Now I have a lot of leisure time. I haunt the local hot-spots. Places he wouldn't be caught dead in. I get out of bed. It's difficult without a job and Adam to go to. I still wake up at shift change time. Part of me wants to get back to work. I used to be so glad to get those last minute calls from the manager or Babs. I was usually told only that Patricia wouldn't be coming in that day for her usual 8 to 4 P.M. shift. Sometimes Babs told me, with a confidential air and a request to keep it to myself, that she was depressed. For all I